

# RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD HONOR GUARD TEAM ON THEIR VICTORY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minnesota National Guard Honor Guard team for their victory at the Army's recent National Guard Honor Guard competition in Fort Myer, Virginia.

The competition featured eight of the most elite honor guard teams from around the country, testing their knowledge, testing their abilities and performing military funeral honors, uniform items and other aspects of military honors. Properly honoring the men and women who have given their lives and service to the United States demands the utmost commitment, attention to detail, and training.

The Minnesota National Guard holds that commitment in the highest regard, and their victory in this competition is a testimony to that fact. But as we offer our congratulations to the Minnesota honor guard team, let us also remember those who have given their lives in the name of the United States of America and continue today to recognize those that also work and serve to protect our country each and every day.

## WE CAN'T BORROW, TAX, AND SPEND TO PROSPERITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, more Americans are looking for jobs, families are in crisis and facing the tragedy of foreclosure.

Yet in Washington, Democrats continue to push their out-of-touch agenda, which will eliminate jobs and tax families and small businesses. Under the Democrat national energy tax, prices will skyrocket to heat and cool homes, drive cars and shop for food.

Under the Democrat Big Government health care takeover, senior citizens are under attack. Families and small businesses will pay more taxes as they are forced to navigate a sea of new regulations and mandates from a health czar.

In the meantime, Democrats are scheming new ways to borrow taxpayer dollars to top this year's record \$1.4 trillion deficit. Such actions will only increase the catastrophe of high unemployment.

We need to end this attack on senior citizens and small businesses. Both parties should work helping our small businesses get families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

# U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN POISED TO UNJUSTLY CONDEMN ISRAEL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week the U.N. Human Rights Council is considering a highly biased and one-sided report on Israel's defense against the attacks of Hamas this past January.

The council, which has been frequently discredited by its coddling of real human rights violators, is back to its favorite pastime, condemning the nation of Israel for defending itself against the attacks of violent terrorist groups like Hamas. Its latest faux crusade will only serve to further undermine any scrap of legitimacy that the body may have left.

If the council votes to condemn Israel and accuse it of war crimes, it's committing a great injustice and allowing itself to serve as a mouthpiece for those who wish to sabotage a true and lasting peace in Israel.

This report is not about human rights abuses. It's about taking biased cheap shots at the nation of Israel and undermining its right as a sovereign nation to defend itself against attacks. The U.S. must continue to stand by Israel, a strong democratic ally in the Middle East.

## LET'S GET TO THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon we heard the chairman of the Education Committee really fiery and passionate, fussing, looking over at this side talking about Republicans playing politics and how this side over here had been playing politics with the water bill. There is nothing in playing politics when you are talking about tens of thousands of people being out of work and an important part of the country not being able to produce.

What would be playing politics is when the chairman of the committee finds out that someone opposing the water bill from California has a motion to recognize the University of California, Irvine, for winning the NCAA national championship in men's volleyball and pulls the bill because he opposes the chairman's bill. My friends, that's playing politics, and it is outrageous.

Let's stop the games and get to the work of the people.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## AIG'S EXECUTIVE BONUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep outrage over AIG's plans to give \$198 million in bonuses to their employees next March, especially after paying out \$165 million in bonuses earlier this year. Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs is on track to provide a record payout to its executives by the end of 2009 and other firms will undoubtedly follow suit.

Well, I find it infuriating and insulting that these firms continue to reward incompetence and egregious risk-taking with taxpayer money. They have not only received billions in direct Federal bailouts to avert crises largely of their own making, but they also benefited from an array of Federal fiscal policies that have placed increased burdens on taxpayers and our deficit.

These companies must be held accountable for their decisions and for the Federal assistance they only too gladly accepted. That's why I supported legislation to block these bonuses and to ensure that taxpayers receive a full refund. I will continue to press my colleagues and the administration to ensure that as Wall Street again enjoys profitability, American taxpayers also see some reward.

I want to commend Chairman FRANK and the Financial Services Committee for their hard work on the financial regulatory overhaul that is so critically needed in our country to prevent another crisis from happening. I anxiously look forward to seeing this legislation come to the floor very soon. It's clear that our financial system demands commonsense regulation, increased transparency, and improved oversight.

Wall Street CEOs cannot run their businesses assuming that the fruits of success will be entirely theirs to enjoy while the cost of failure will be shared, will be the shared responsibility of the American people. Wall Street's compensation plans can no longer benefit top executives at the expense of their companies, shareholders and employees, and ultimately the American taxpayer.

After all this country has been through, when we have an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent nationally, and especially when 12.8 percent of Rhode Islanders are unemployed, seeing that Wall Street has not learned its lesson is a tremendous disappointment. We have to take action now so that we don't go down this road again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)